

MINUTES

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room
John A. Hannah Building
608 West Allegan
Lansing, Michigan

December 13, 2001
9:30 a.m.

Present: Mr. Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman
Mrs. Kathleen N. Straus, President
Mrs. Sharon L. Gire, Vice President
Mr. Michael David Warren, Jr., Secretary
Mrs. Eileen Lappin Weiser, Treasurer
Mrs. Marianne Yared McGuire, NASBE Delegate
Mr. John C. Austin
Dr. Herbert S. Moyer
Mrs. Sharon Wise
Mr. Scott Jenkins, representing Governor John Engler, ex officio

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Watkins called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

II. AGENDA MATERIALS

- A. Approval of State Board of Education Minutes of Meeting of November 15, 2001
- B. Adoption of Resolution to Urge the Restoration of State Funding for School-Based and School-Linked Health Centers
- C. Report of the Superintendent - 2000-2001 Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grant Program - Cycle 5 - Additional Awards
- D. Report of the Superintendent - 2001-2002 State Competitive Projects, Part C Cycle 5 - Additional Awards
- E. Report of the Superintendent - 2001-2002 Michigan Motorcycle Rider and Safety Education Program - Amendment

III. INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS PROVIDED TO THE BOARD

- A. Memorandum dated December 13, 2001, from Mr. Alexander Davlantes, Administrative Officer, to the Board regarding Update on Activities at

- Michigan Schools for the Deaf and Blind, and Camp T
- B. Memorandum dated December 13, 2001, from Superintendent to the Board regarding Information on Study of the Financial Requirements of Public Education

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

- A. Report of the Superintendent - 2000-2001 Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grant Program - Cycle 5 - Additional Awards - added to agenda
- B. Report of the Superintendent - 2001-2002 State Competitive Projects, Part C Amendment - added to agenda
- C. Report of the Superintendent - 2001-2002 Michigan Motorcycle Rider and Safety Education Program - Amendment - added to agenda

Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mr. Austin, that the State Board of Education approve the agenda and order of priority, as modified.

The motion carried unanimously.

V. INTRODUCTIONS OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AND GUESTS

Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, Administrative Secretary to the State Board of Education, introduced the members of the State Board of Education including Mrs. Weiser who was participating in the meeting via speaker telephone, and guests attending the meeting.

Mr. Watkins invited Representative Michael Pumford, Representative Ronald Jelinek, Representative Michael Switalski, Representative Wayne Kuipers, and Representative Gerald Van Woerkom, who were in attendance at the meeting to the table. Mr. Watkins said it is important to have the representatives sitting at the table with the Board because they are viewed as partners to enhance and improve education throughout Michigan.

VI. APPROVAL OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

- A. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of November 15, 2001

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Warren, that the State Board of Education approve the minutes of the meeting of November 15, 2001.

The motion carried unanimously.

VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mrs. Straus provided a year in review report which is attached as Exhibit A.

VIII. DISCUSSION REGARDING *EDUCATION YES! A YARDSTICK FOR EXCELLENT SCHOOLS*

Dr. William Bushaw, Chief Academic Officer; Mr. Paul Bielawski, Special Assistant for Underperforming Schools; and Mr. John Williams, Deputy Director, Career Education Programs, Department of Career Development, provided information and a PowerPoint presentation, and responded to questions from the Board regarding the *Education Yes! A Yardstick for Excellent Schools*. Dr. Bushaw acknowledged Dr. John Wick, Emeritus Professor, Northwestern University, for his involvement in the development of this program.

Dr. Bushaw said that in 1988 the State Board of Education established the first school accreditation program which contained over 240 standards. He said since that time, much has been learned about accreditation, and the *Education YES! A Yardstick for Excellent Schools* proposes three standards as follows:

- All Michigan elementary and middle school children will read independently and use math to solve problems at grade level.
- All Michigan students will experience a year of growth for a year of instruction.
- All Michigan high school students, in addition to demonstrating high academic achievement, will have an educational plan leading them to being prepared for success.

Dr. Bushaw said in addition to being fewer in number, these standards hold everyone involved in education accountable for student achievement.

Mr. Williams said the career planning and education development plan correlates well with the career preparation system of the Department of Career Development. He said excellent academics is essential for student success, but he feels it is not enough. He said data have shown that in order for students to be successful at their next level, they have to know what that level is. He said one factor affecting student success is a clear direction of focus which leads to a commitment to finish. He said the goal is to help students start down a pathway early in their high school years so that they will not reach the second semester of their senior year and wish they had taken different courses. He said the Department of Career Development has developed a program titled, "My Dream Explorer" which is part of the Talent Freeway program that enables students to explore career pathways.

The following individuals offered comments on this item:

- Mr. James Ballard, Executive Director, Michigan Association of Secondary

School Principals, also representing the Michigan Educational Alliance, 1001 Centennial Way, Suite 100, Lansing, Michigan 48917.

- Dr. David Plank, Director, The Education Policy Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

There was extensive discussion regarding: (1) the use of assessments, particularly in the early grades; (2) the time line for the Center for Educational Performance and Information, when it will be implemented, and used in conjunction with the proposed accreditation/accountability system; (3) the importance of providing the education infrastructures and supports that help drive improvement and meet the standards put forth by the Board; (4) the importance of reporting progress along the way, as opposed to labeling failure; (5) what, if any, legislative action is necessary to implement the accreditation/accountability system; (6) how this framework will align with the Board's strategic goal of substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement in chronically underperforming schools; (7) the Board's role in determining the standards for the "grading" system for accreditation/accountability; (8) if there will be assurance that the individual education plans remain active and do not just sit on a shelf; (9) the importance that the expectation placed on educators be clearly defined; (10) the importance of informing the community of why their school did not receive an "A" rating, and what steps may be taken to correct that; (11) the need to include a scoring system for approval by the Board; (12) the need to incorporate and the recommendations of the State Board of Education Task Force on Embracing the Information Age; (13) the constitutional authority of the Board to create an accreditation system and (14) using the arts in academics to enhance learning.

Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mrs. Straus, to forward the *Education Yes! A Yardstick for Excellent Schools* to public hearings so that it can be brought back to the Board for review in February as modified, and including the scoring system.

The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Plank's written comments are attached as Exhibit B.

IX. APPROVAL OF REVISED MODEL CONTENT STANDARDS FOR CURRICULUM AND RECEIVE THE REPORT ON THE BENCHMARKS FOR CAREER AND EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

Ms. Sue Carnell, Director, Office of School Excellence; Mr. John Williams, Deputy Director, Career Education Programs, Michigan Department of Career Development; Mr. James Sandy, Director, Michigan Business Leaders for Education Excellence of the Michigan Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Robert Thomas, Assistant Director, Michigan Chamber Foundation; and Ms. Jan Danford, formerly with General Motors Corporation and former board member of Michigan Business Leaders for Education Excellence, provided information and responded to questions from the Board

regarding the revised model Content Standards for curriculum, and the Benchmarks for career and employability skills.

Ms. Carnell said the Michigan Business Leaders for Education Excellence (MBLEE) and the Michigan Chamber Foundation have thoroughly reviewed the Content Standards and Benchmarks and submitted suggestions for improvement. She said staff from the Departments of Education and Career Development have worked extensively with MBLEE to identify where the Career and Employability Standards meet the needs of businesses and revise the Benchmarks to align with the core academic subjects.

Mr. Sandy said he thinks the workplace is going to force the integration of curriculum into the classroom because workplace skills required today are completely different from 20 years ago. He said the day of having separated tiers and shuffling some students off to vocational education programs and others off to college preparation programs are gone.

Mr. Williams said one of the connections to the real world in the Standards and Benchmarks is integrating skills, knowledge, and abilities throughout the entire curriculum. He said he thinks it is exciting that it is now validated by business and industry.

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Warren, that the State Board of Education (1) approve the revised Model Content Standards for Curriculum in the areas of Career and Employability Skills denoted in Appendix A of the Superintendent's memorandum of November 28, 2001; and (2) receive the revised Benchmarks for Career and Employability Skills as provided in Appendix B of the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 28, 2001.

There was extensive discussion regarding: (1) concern that the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test is not as focused on the practical applications as it should be, (2) the importance of career development and adequate preparation for success, and (3) the two major roles of public education which are to preserve the democracy, and to equip students with skills to succeed in life.

Mr. Watkins suggested that a report could be presented to the Board at a future meeting on the efforts of the business community to assist in the education of children in Michigan so that they are better prepared for the future.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Gire, McGuire, Moyer, Straus, Warren, Wise
Absent during vote: Weiser

The motion carried.

X. RECESS

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

- A. Ms. Joni Williams, 509 Davis Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 48007.
Ms. Williams offered comments regarding the treatment her special education son has received through the Kalamazoo Public Schools.
In response to the concerns raised by Ms. Williams, Mr. Watkins said he has asked Dr. Jacquelyn Thompson, Director, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, and a compliance officer from her office to meet with Ms. Williams.

Mrs. Gire said similar issues have been raised in her district, and therefore, she feels it would be helpful if Board members were made aware of what resources are available for parents with special education concerns.

Mr. Watkins said many of these issues can be resolved at the local school district level. He said the Department has an umbrella responsibility as part of the federal compliance to ensure local districts are in compliance.

XII. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- A. Presentation of Resolution to James Linsell, Michigan Teacher of the Year

Ms. Sue Carnell, Director, Office of School Excellence, introduced Mr. James Linsell, Michigan Teacher of the Year. Ms. Carnell said Mr. Linsell has been an educator for almost 30 years, and began his career as a classroom teacher, moved on to become an administrator, and then returned again to the classroom to teach sixth grade Social Studies and Language Arts at Eastern Elementary School, Traverse City Public Schools. She said since becoming Michigan's Teacher of the Year, Mr. Linsell has represented Michigan teachers at the Focus on Teacher Training Seminar, has become a member of the State Board of Education Task Force on Ensuring Excellent Educators, has interviewed with the Michigan Education Association's Voice, is part of the Education Policy Fellowship Program, has presented at workshops that involve teaching for understanding, curriculum alignment and instruction, literacy methods, teacher shortage and recruitment, and has talked about the role of the regular education teacher in implementing special education programs.

Mr. Linsell was presented with the resolution adopted by the Board at its November 15, 2001, meeting, and said it was his pleasure to accept it on behalf of the teachers of Michigan, and considers it an honor to represent excellent teachers in Michigan.

XIII. DISCUSSION REGARDING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TASK FORCE ON EMBRACING THE INFORMATION AGE

Mr. Warren introduced the following members of the Embracing the Information

Age Task Force in attendance at the Board meeting: Ms. Christine Skogland, Teacher, Oakman Elementary, Detroit Public Schools; Mr. Greg Marks, Director of Learning Systems at Merit Network; Mr. James Bosco, Western Michigan University; and Ms. Katherine Willis, Cyber-state.org.

Mr. Warren said the State Board of Education adopted a strategic goal at its March meeting as follows: “Substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement in chronically underperforming schools.” He said testimony from several experts was received and five Task Forces were established to help accomplish this goal. He said a presentation by the Embracing the Information Task Force was given last month, and he is hopeful that the Board will adopt the resulting policy recommendations included in the report.

Virtual Districts

Ms. Willis provided an overview of the Virtual Districts concept and how it was developed. She said this concept provides an opportunity for underperforming schools or school districts to improve by establishing relationships with other schools.

Mr. Watkins said the presentation at the November 15, 2001, meeting was very powerful. However, he wished to point out he had learned following that meeting that the computers used by the students from Alex Dow Elementary School, Detroit Public Schools, were on loan, and had to be returned following the Task Force presentation. He said the students from Covington Elementary, Birmingham Public Schools have use of computers on a daily basis. He said he feels it is imperative that the Board work to close the digital divide and not adopt policy which will exacerbate the issue.

Mr. Warren said many schools throughout Michigan suffer from the same condition as Alex Dow Elementary, and that is why he requested that Ms. Joelle Demand, Policy Advisor, House Republican Policy Office, provide information to the Board regarding Speaker Johnson’s initiative to provide one computer for each student in Michigan’s public schools.

There was extensive discussion regarding: (1) the need to work in collaboration with the Legislature and Governor on this issue; and (2) ensuring that every student in Michigan has access to Information Age technology.

Mrs. Gire moved, seconded by Mr. Warren, that the State Board of Education adopt a policy to collaborate with the Legislature and the Governor in ensuring that all children in the State of Michigan have access to Information Age technology.

Mr. Jenkins expressed concern that by adopting this policy, the Board could create a rippling effect on categoricals by dictating how state funds are to be spent. In response, it was suggested that some school districts obtain computers through grants, vendors, additional bond propositions, and contributions, and that the state foundation grant money is not always used.

The Board continued its discussion and addressed the following: (3) the Teacher Technology Initiative; (4) socioeconomic conditions; (5) the importance of teacher knowledge in the use of Information Age technology; (6) the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) Task Force report regarding the digital divide; and (7) seeking additional state, federal, and other fund sources for school districts which need financial assistance to purchase Information Age technology.

After much discussion, Mr. Watkins requested that Dr. William Bushaw, Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent for Administrative Services; and Mrs. Eileen Hamilton, Administrative Secretary to the State Board of Education, review the motion, and in light of the discussion, suggest alternative language for consideration by the Board.

There was consensus to not vote on the motion until later in the presentation. Mr. Warren said the Virtual Districts concept would not entail additional funding, but would encourage school districts to form collaborations for improvement.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Wise, that the State Board of Education endorse the virtual districts policy, key recommendations, and appendices, as proposed by the Embracing the Information Age Task Force.

Discussion ensued regarding: (1) whether virtual school districts could and/or would include home schooled students, (2) a clarification on which policy recommendations were under consideration, (3) the concern that the proposed policy was a mandatory requirement, and (4) a suggestion that the Embracing the Information Age Task Force provide additional data to the Board regarding the policy recommendations.

Mr. Austin accepted a friendly amendment to the policy as follows: “The State Board of Education ENCOURAGES chronically underperforming schools and districts ~~with~~ TO form collaborative partnerships creating virtual districts by which all partners share best practices and resources.”

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Gire, McGuire, Moyer, Straus, Warren, Wise
Absent during vote: Weiser

The motion carried.

Transcending the Four Walls

Mr. Marks provided an overview of the Transcending the Four Walls policy recommendation, and said the basic idea is to provide schools, teachers, and students an opportunity to utilize technology such as teleconferencing, the Internet, and course work through off-site teachers.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mrs. Gire, that the State Board of Education encourage schools to Transcend their Four Walls and Districts - distance learning and other learning resources should be integrated into the learning community.

In response to Board member concern regarding the Department's ability to fulfill the time line and workload expectations outlined in the policy recommendation, Ms. Carol Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent for Administrative Services, said that staff are already doing some of the items outlined. She said further review would be necessary after February or March 2002.

There was extensive discussion regarding: (1) whether this policy is necessary because of open enrollment, collaborative districts, and shared time programs which are already in place; and (2) the policy recommendation that all high school students be required to take no less than one online course from the Michigan Virtual High School.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Gire, Wise, Warren

Nays: Moyer, Straus

Abstain: McGuire

Absent during vote: Weiser

The motion failed.

Content Standards Assessment

Mr. Warren said this policy recommendation is that state and local academic standards, benchmarks, and assessments of schools, administrators, and students must reflect the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the Information Age. He said the skills and standards needed to succeed in the Information Age are not clearly delineated in the Content Standards and Benchmarks. He said this policy recommendation addresses skills such as decision making, and analytical and critical thinking which are necessary to participate in our democratic system of self-government in the 21st Century.

Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mrs. Wise, that the State Board of Education recommend that state and local academic standards and benchmarks, and assessments of schools, administrators, teachers, and students, must reflect the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the Information Age.

There was extensive discussion regarding: (1) teacher preparation programs and the periodic review/program evaluation process and the Department's role in that activity; (2) the possibility of either developing a new standard for educators, or collapsing two or three current standards; and (3) the impact of this policy

recommendation on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test, and whether it is fair for students who do not currently have access to Information Age technology.

There was consensus that the Board would vote on the policy statement only, and that the Embracing the Information Age Task Force would develop a time line and implementation strategies that relate to the other Task Forces.

Mrs. Weiser rejoined the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Gire, Moyer, Straus, Warren, Weiser, Wise
Nay: McGuire

The motion carried.

Mr. Watkins suggested that the Board revisit the first motion that was made regarding the Board working with the Legislature and the Governor.

The motion was restated as follows:

Mrs. Gire moved, seconded by Mr. Warren, that the State Board of Education work with the Governor, Legislature, foundation education groups, and businesses to provide resources to ensure that the digital divide will be bridged.

The motion carried unanimously.

Educator Preparation and Professional Development

Ms. Skogland provided an overview of the Educator Preparation and Professional Development policy recommendation.

Mr. Austin moved, seconded by Mr. Warren, that the State Board of Education adopt the policy statement of All Educators and Administrators will be Prepared to use Information Age Tools and Learning Techniques and Process, and the recommendations that the two committees on Embracing the Information Age and Enhancing Excellent Educators work on the details.

It was suggested that the Board endorse the policy statement, and that the Embracing the Information Age Task Force work in conjunction with the Ensuring Excellent Educators Task Force to further develop recommendations to be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

The vote was taken on the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Transcending the Four Walls, (continued)

Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mrs. Wise, that the State Board of Education encourage schools to Transcend their Four Walls and Districts - distance learning and other learning resources should be integrated into the learning community.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the policy statement would read as follows:
“The State Board of Education will encourage schools to transcend the four walls...”

There was extensive discussion regarding the policy statement and recommendations. Some Board members felt that it would be better to wait until all the Task Forces have made their presentations before detailed recommendations were developed so a whole package could be presented to school districts, the Legislature, and Governor; as well as determining the impact on staff and their workload.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Warren, Weiser, Wise

Nays: Austin, McGuire, Moyer, Straus

Abstain: Gire

The motion failed.

Mr. Warren moved, seconded by Mrs. Wise, that the State Board of Education adopt the policy statement that the State Board of Education will encourage school to transcend their Four Walls and Districts - distance learning and other learning resources should be integrated into the learning community.

Ayes: Austin, Gire, Moyer, Straus, Warren, Weiser, Wise

Abstain: McGuire

The motion carried.

Mr. Austin and Mr. Watkins both commented that the Board could reach a consensus regarding the recommendations included within this policy statement at the next meeting. They both appreciate the Task Force’s efforts to move forward in an expeditious and powerful way.

XIV. “LISTEN AND LEARN” REGARDING CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION

Mr. Watkins said the State Board of Education has charged Mr. Austin to solicit input and a list of questions and/or concerns from each Board member which will be developed into a position paper to be presented to the Commission on Charter

Schools chaired by Dr. Peter McPherson, President, Michigan State University. He said a draft document was discussed at the November 13, 2001, meeting, but no consensus was reached. He said the Board's Executive Committee (which consists of the Board President, Vice President, and Secretary) suggested that each Board member provide questions and/or concerns in a modified "listen and learn" session. He said he will carry that information to the Commission for further discussion.

Mr. Watkins said Mr. Warren, who testified, and Mrs. Straus attended the Detroit hearing recently, and he encouraged Board members to participate either in person or electronically via the Commission's website.

There was extensive discussion regarding: (1) if traditional public school board members must meet the same guidelines as public school academy (PSA) board members; and (2) the feasibility of the State Board granting charters. It was suggested that each Board member provide a brief comments/concerns regarding charter schools.

Mr. Austin said he felt the Board should be given the authority to charter schools which would be a good opportunity to provide clear, quality guidance and leadership in charter school development. He said the Board should also collaborate with charter school authorizers to develop guidelines for PSA board member responsibilities to avoid a conflict of interest.

Mrs. McGuire said she feels that when a child leaves a charter school to return to a traditional public school, the state aid foundation allowance should follow the child immediately. She said charter schools should also be monitored to ensure the original plan of operation.

It was suggested that a booklet be developed which would provide information on what is entailed in starting and operating a charter school so individuals who wish to do so may avoid connecting with a management company. This booklet would contain information such as building codes, and fire regulations.

Mrs. Gire said the Board has received studies on charter schools which have indicated that charter schools are not particularly creative or innovative. She said she would like the Charter School Commission to explore the issue of oversight, as well as the role of the Board and the Department have regarding parental concerns. She also expressed concern that special education students were being discourage from enrolling in charter schools.

It was also suggested that the Commission explore the issue of oversight and the role of the Board and Department as well as what options parents have if an issue arises at a charter school.

Mrs. Straus said she thinks the recommendation made by Dr. Michael Addonizio at the September 20, 2001, Board meeting that the Board should be more assertive in its

oversight authority should be adopted. She said she does not feel that charter school board members and directors always recognize that they are a public body, and must comply with certain laws. She said she is aware that some management companies have established a charter school in a particular area and recruited a board and students. She also expressed concern that some charter schools appear to be ethnocentric which she feels is not the way public schools should be.

Mrs. Wise said she thinks professional management companies are beneficial to charter schools by offering their expertise, in complying with the Open Meetings Act, and helping PSA boards realize they are public bodies.

Dr. Moyer said one of the original concepts of charter schools was to provide diversity examples for traditional public schools. He said studies indicate that is not the case. He said the advocacy was for qualitative programs, but the emphasis in Michigan has been on quantity instead. He said he feels that many management companies view charter schools as a means to make money, and have established cookie cutter schools that dominate charter schools in Michigan. He said authorizer oversight is essential, and he would like the Charter School Commission to review authorizer evaluations.

Mr. Warren said he believes it is time to move out of the agricultural age and into the Information Age, and embrace choice and options for students. He said there has been a lot of interest in whether or not charter schools are more creative than traditional public schools, but he feels that it will not happen until there is a critical mass of capital, customers, and educators in PSA's. He said that will not happen until the cap is lifted. He said management companies provide the resources and business skills necessary to start up schools, and he supports the idea of a booklet. He said the greatest accountability factor is that charter schools have no captive customers, and therefore, must attract students.

Mrs. Weiser said the Board should hold all public schools, whether they are charter or traditional, to the same standards. She said the Board needs to understand that with the cap, PSA innovation may be as diverse and cultural as science academies and back to basics curricula, and that all are worthwhile ventures. She said more respect must be given to charter school parents, students, administrators, and teachers who have chosen a different path to connect children with a successful education.

Mr. Jenkins said one issue he is aware of is that newly formed charter schools often receive an exceptional number of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. He said this can cause a hardship for a struggling new school, and he would request that the Charter School Commission investigate this issue.

Mr. Watkins said one focus of the Commission is to separate rumors from fact regarding management companies and charter schools. Mrs. Straus said the Board adopted a unanimous position on management companies at its December 16, 1999, meeting because of a concern that management companies were not complying with the Open Meetings Act or responding to public concern. Mr. Watkins said with the

Board's permission, he would transmit that document to the Commission.

No action was taken on this item.

XV. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

- I. Human Resources Report
- J. Report on Administrative Rule Waivers
- K. Report on Approval of Periodic Review/Program Evaluation of Teacher Education Programs
- L. Report on Approval of Allegan County's Proposal to Annex to the Kalamazoo Valley Community College District
- M. 2001-02 Michigan Virtual High School
- N. 2001-2002 State Discretionary Projects, Part B
- O. 2000-20001 and 2001-2002 State Discretionary Projects, Part B - Amendment
- P. 2001-2002 Mathematics and Science Centers
- Q. Section 32e Small K-3 Class Size Grants
- R. 2000-2001 Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grant Program - Cycle 5 - Additional Awards
- S. 2001-2002 State Competitive Projects, Part C - Amendment (Evaluation, Family Information Exchange, Information and Performance Reporting, Personnel Development System)
- T. 2001-2002 Michigan Motorcycle Rider and Safety Education Program - Amendment

Mr. Watkins provided an oral report on the following:

A. School Finance

Mr. Watkins said at its August 23, 2001, meeting the State Board of Education adopted a Statement Regarding Financial Requirements of Public Education. He said a copy of a letter to the School Finance Task Force dated December 12, 2001, has been included in the Board members Informational

Folders. He said a meeting was held on November 29, 2001, which included researchers and policy people from Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, Citizens Research Council, and the North Central Regional Educational Laboratory. He said the original goal for this group was to review the Board policy on finance, and as reported at the November 13, 2001, meeting, the study has been broken down into the following three parts: (1) the proposed way; (2) infrastructure; and (3) efficiency and effectiveness.

Mr. Watkins said NCREL plans to review the Board's Statement Regarding Financial Requirements of Public Education, and the paper by Dr. Phil Kearney, University of Michigan, and develop about ten questions for the panel to consider. He said the goal is to come up with a number of recommendations and solicit public input before presenting the recommendation to the Board for approval.

B. Plante and Moran

Mr. Watkins said in an effort to ensure that the Board's policies and staff initiatives are in alignment, and that the Department is operating efficiently, he has enlisted Plante and Moran to interview staff and members of the Board. He said a report will be given at the Board retreat in January.

C. Superintendent of Public Instruction Activities

Mr. Watkins said staff have put together a pictorial of his recent activities, media contact, and local and intermediate superintendent interaction which is on display outside the Board room. He said the only part of the state he is yet to visit is the Northeast corner around Alpena.

XVI. APPROVAL OF STANDARDS FOR THE PREPARATION OF GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS; AND APPROVAL OF STANDARDS FOR THE PREPARATION OF HISTORY TEACHERS

Dr. Catherine Smith, Supervisor, Office of Professional Preparation Services; and Ms. Karen R. Todorov, Consultant, provided information and responded to questions from the Board regarding the standards for the preparation of geography and history teachers.

Ms. Todorov said she believes that by approving these Standards, they will improve the way teachers of history and geography will be prepared for the classroom.

Dr. Smith said the Standards will be used as a basis for program approval for colleges and universities that want to offer history or geography majors or minors to people preparing to become teachers.

Mrs. Gire moved, seconded by Mrs. McGuire, that the State Board of Education: (1) approve the standards for the preparation of geography teachers, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 28, 2001; and (2) approve the standards for the preparation of history teachers, as discussed in the Superintendent's memorandum dated November 28, 2001.

There was extensive discussion regarding: (1) the correlation of the standards to elementary teacher preparation; (2) the inclusion of the study of indigenous peoples in a particular region in the Geography Standards; (3) the importance of children to learning geography given the current world climate; and (4) the need to update the Standards and Benchmarks for history and geography.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Gire, McGuire, Moyer, Straus, Warren, Wise
Absent: Austin, Weiser

The motion carried.

XVII. REPORT ON THE CONSENT AGENDA

- G. Approval of State Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2002**
- H. Adoption of Resolution to Urge the Restoration of State Funding for School-Based and School-Linked Health Centers**

There was consensus to removed Item H, "Adoption of Resolution to Urge the Restoration of State Funding for School-Based and School-Linked Health Centers," from the agenda.

Mrs. Straus moved, seconded by Mr. Warren, that the State Board of Education approve the consent agenda as follows:

- G. approve the meeting schedule for 2002, as attached to the Administrative Secretary's memorandum dated November 28, 2001.**

Ayes: Gire, McGuire, Moyer, Straus, Warren, Wise
Absent: Austin, Weiser

The motion carried.

Mrs. Straus said she requested that the "Adoption of Resolution to Urge the Restoration of State Funding for School-Based and School-Linked Health Centers," be removed from the agenda because she had just received a copy of a letter from Mr. Don Gilmer, State Budget Director, to the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees that he was concerned about this issue. She said the

letter states that, "Due to concerns raised about the abrupt nature of the cut to teen health centers, I have looked for alternative transitional funding sources. This will allow the centers additional time to explore alternative funding sources and obtain training and billing for Medicaid and MI-CHILD services. The special projects line item of the Department of Community Health budget has a small amount of uncommitted funding that is sufficient to maintain state funding for the centers until February 1, 2002. I have directed the Department of Community Health to allocate this funding to teen health centers and to work with the centers for billing opportunities." She said since Mr. Gilmer is already aware of this issue she felt it was not necessary for the Board to consider the resolution at this time.

XVIII. COMMENTS BY STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

A. Committee of the Whole Meeting - Mrs. Kathleen Straus

Mrs. Straus suggested scheduling a Committee of the Whole meeting in late January so that the Board may focus on safety and bullying programs. She said there has been much interest in the Board's Bullying Policy, and she is aware of programs developed by students and teachers that should be shared.

XIX. TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Mrs. Gire requested that members of the Michigan Educational Alliance who attended the Priority Schools Conference provide a report to the Board at a future meeting because she feels it would provide the Board with some valuable information.

XX. FUTURE MEETING DATES

- A. January 10-11, 2002 Regular Board meeting and Board Retreat
- B. February 14, 2002
- C. March 14, 2002
- D. April 11, 2002

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael David Warren, Jr.
Secretary